

Report of the fifteenth session of the

COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

Rome, 10-19 October 1983



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

REPORT
of the
FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE
COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

(TECHNICAL PHASE OF THE FAO WORLD CONFERENCE
ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT)

Rome, 10-19 October 1983

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome 1983

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PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

This is the final version of the report as approved by the fifteenth session of the Committee on Fisheries.

ABSTRACT

The Committee on Fisheries at its fifteenth session not only carried out its statutory duties in reviewing the work of FAO in fisheries, but also constituted the technical phase of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. In preparation for the 1984 policy phase of the World Fisheries Conference, the Committee undertook a thorough analysis of key issues involved in fisheries management and development. The analysis served as a basis for its recommendations regarding a series of basic elements from which the guidelines and principles of a Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development might be formulated by FAO for submission to the World Fisheries Conference. It also approved the elaboration of the following five Action Programmes to be submitted to the World Fisheries Conference: fisheries planning, management and development (covering both marine and inland fisheries); development of small-scale fisheries; aquaculture; trade in fish and fisheries products, and promotion of the role of fisheries in alleviating undernutrition. It suggested a number of steps that might be taken by the Director-General to finalize the draft Strategy and associated Action Programmes before their submission to the World Fisheries Conference.

The Committee fully supported the level of resources and the activities proposed for the fisheries programme for the biennium 1984-85 and recommended the continuation of the Special Programme of Assistance to Developing Countries in the Development and Management of Fisheries in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ Programme). Recommendations were made by the Committee in regard to the updating and modification of the FAO/UNEP Draft Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals.

Distribution

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FAO Fisheries Department
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OCT. 20 1983

Dear Dr Swaminathan,

... I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the report of the Fifteenth Session of the Committee on Fisheries, which was held in Rome from 10 to 19 October 1983. The session also constituted the technical phase of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development.

Yours sincerely,

Abdu Rachman
Chairman
Committee on Fisheries

Dr M.S. Swaminathan
Independent Chairman
Council of FAO

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MATTERS REQUIRING ATTENTION BY THE COUNCIL

A. MATTERS FOR DECISION

None

B. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

Objectives, policies and strategies for fisheries development

The Committee reviewed the complex and various factors which had to be assessed by governments when planning fisheries development. Most delegations stated that their countries wished to apply a policy based on the expansion of national fishing capacities, while others preferred to adopt a fisheries development strategy which included the negotiation of transitory joint ventures or bilateral access agreements.

(paras. 9-10)

The Committee agreed that the important contribution of inland water fisheries and aquaculture should be fully taken into account when planning fisheries development, particularly with respect to improved food supply and socio-economic conditions of rural population.

(para. 16)

The Committee observed, that notwithstanding the recognition of sovereign rights in exclusive economic zones over fishery resources, international, regional and sub-regional cooperation remained of importance. It noted with appreciation the offers of collaboration and assistance made by a number of Member Nations.

(paras. 23, 28)

Principles and techniques of fisheries management

The Committee considered that good management of fisheries was an integral part of the development process. It recognized that governments had a strong role in fishery management and should in particular coordinate all national interest groups. Governments should also seek necessary international agreement on the use of shared resources. Implementation of management measures was only possible by involving fishery industry and fishermen. A high priority was given to the expansion of research to identify new fish stocks and to better describe the biology and ecology of those presently exploited, as well as to research on the environment. It was proposed that FAO should prepare an inventory of regional skills and facilities as a basis for TCDC programmes between neighbouring countries.

(paras. 31, 39, 41, 50)

Conditions and control of access to fishery resources in exclusive economic zones

Most delegations stressed the overriding importance of the concept of sovereign rights of the coastal States with respect to the exploration, exploitation, conservation and management of the living resources in exclusive economic zones. It was pointed out that the issues of access to fishery resources of exclusive economic zones should be viewed as part only of the wider issue of the rational management of marine living resources. It was generally felt that the granting of access to foreign fishing fleets to the resources of the exclusive economic zones of coastal States should be viewed merely as a transitory phase.

(paras. 52, 54)

The Committee recognized the need for regional cooperation including the harmonization of fisheries legislation and the establishment of regional cooperative mechanisms to enhance the control of coastal States over foreign fishing operations.

(para. 59)

Strong support was given for the continuation of FAO's role in collecting and disseminating information on coastal States' requirements governing access.

(para. 65)

Special problems of small-scale fisheries

The Committee emphasized that the management and development of small-scale fisheries should be a priority area and that it was essential to adopt an integrated approach, including not only components in the production chain, but also social and economic aspects. It agreed that FAO had a particularly important role to play in project planning and training.

(paras. 69, 85)

Special problems of small developing island States in the management and development of fisheries under the new regime of the oceans

The Committee noted the difficulties encountered by small developing island States, including the scarcity of trained manpower, the lack of resource information and of infrastructures, as well as communication and transportation constraints. It identified areas where increased assistance could be provided by FAO, e.g., stock assessment, harmonization of legislation, baitfish culture, processing, market information.

(paras. 87-94)

Special problems of inland fisheries and aquaculture

As regards inland fisheries, the Committee noted that problems in this sector were similar to those of small-scale marine fisheries. In addition, it stressed that fisheries planners should participate actively at the national and international level in decisions concerning integrated basin development. FAO assistance was especially required in assessment and management of anadromous species and of resources of coastal lagoons and newly created reservoirs.

(paras. 97, 101)

The Committee emphasized the role of aquaculture as a source of food in rural and urban areas, as well as a source of employment, income and foreign currency. It stressed that aquaculture development should receive more attention from government planning units, donor agencies and financing institutions.

(paras. 103, 105)

International trade in fish and fishery products

The Committee considered that the various measures suggested for improving the participation and performance of developing countries in international fish trade were in line with the recommendations and decisions of recent international conferences on the subject and pointed out that FAO activities related to trade promotion should be coordinated with the regional and international organizations concerned.

(paras. 110, 116)

The Committee agreed that a multilateral framework for consultations on fish trade matters based on regional arrangements would be valuable. It requested the Secretariat to set up an ad hoc group of specialists which would study the matter, including the possible establishment of an international commodity body within the framework of the UNCTAD Common Fund of Commodities.

(para. 121)

International collaboration in research, management and development, including the role of FAO

The Committee recognized that the introduction of the new regime of the oceans, together with the growing complexity of fishery matters and the number of shared stocks, had increased the importance of international cooperation. It agreed that FAO regional fishery bodies and their sub-regional committees for fishery management and development, supported by associated field programmes, provided a unique mechanism for inter-country cooperation and for the delivery of technical assistance. The importance of cooperation in research and other aspects of inland water fisheries and aquaculture development was also stressed.

(paras. 126, 129, 134)

Draft Programme of Work and Budget for 1984/85

The Committee fully supported the Director-General's proposals for the fisheries programme and agreed that the strategies and priorities recommended did reflect the major needs for the development of world fisheries. It also expressed its satisfaction with the close integration between the Regular and Field Programmes, which was designed to assist developing countries in improving their capabilities in fisheries management and development.

(paras. 153, 168)

Report on the programme of assistance in the development and management of fisheries in the exclusive economic zones

The Committee noted with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of the Director-General's special Action Programme, as regards both medium-term action and long-term studies. It strongly supported the continuation of these activities and suggested that the scope of the Programme might be broadened to include fishery management in large inland water bodies bordered by two or more countries.

(paras. 174, 177)

FAO/UNEP Draft Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals

The general aims of the above Draft Plan were supported in principle by the Committee. It was agreed that the Draft Plan needed to be updated and modified, taking into full consideration written and oral comments of Member Governments. The Committee cautioned that there should be no duplication of effort with existing governmental and non-governmental organizations. FAO was requested to establish priorities and to consider the relative importance of this work within its overall fisheries programme.

(paras. 179-180)

Preliminary Consideration of Basic Elements for a Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development and for Associated Action Programmes

The Committee welcomed the elaboration of a draft Strategy for fisheries management and development which would be submitted to the policy phase of the World Fisheries Conference. It endorsed a series of basic elements on which guidelines and principles should be formulated by FAO in the light of the Committee's discussions on key issues for fisheries management and development.

(paras. 189-192)

Taking into account the suggestions made by the 1982 Regional Conferences and by delegations at the session, the Committee agreed that proposals for the following five Action Programmes should be submitted to the policy phase of the World Fisheries Conference: Action Programmes on fisheries management and development (covering both marine and inland fisheries); on the development of small-scale fisheries; on aquaculture; on trade in fish and fish products; and on the promotion of the role of fisheries in alleviating undernutrition. It also noted that the active participation and concrete support from governments, donor agencies and financial institutions would be necessary.

(para. 199)

The Committee welcomed the recommendation made by the Council in June 1983, that further consultations with governments and with concerned international organizations regarding the Strategy and the Action Programmes should be undertaken before detailed proposals were submitted to the policy phase of the World Fisheries Conference. In this respect, it agreed on a number of steps that could be taken by the Director-General before he would finalize the proposals and submit them to the Conference.

(para. 207)

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee on Fisheries held its Fifteenth Session in Rome from 10 to 19 October 1983. The Session constituted the Technical Phase of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development. It was attended by 93 members of the Committee, by observers from 22 other FAO Member Nations, six non-Member Nations of FAO and the Holy See, by representatives of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the International Labour Organization, the World Bank and the European Economic Community and by observers from 19 other international organizations.

2. The list of delegates and observers is given in Appendix B to this report.

3. The Session was opened by Mr. Norbert Odero (Kenya), Chairman of the Fourteenth Session of the Committee. After his welcoming remarks, Mr. Odero invited Mr. Edouard Saouma, Director-General of FAO, to deliver his keynote address to the Committee. The Director-General's keynote address is reproduced in Appendix D to this report.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

4. The Committee adopted the Agenda shown in Appendix A. The documents which were before the Committee are listed in Appendix C.

5. A Drafting Committee was appointed consisting of representatives of: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Congo, Egypt, Fiji, France, India, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Spain, Uganda and the United Kingdom. It elected as its Chairman, Mr. S.P. Jakhanwal (India) and Mr. J. Stoneman (U.K.) as Vice-Chairman.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

6. As this was the first and only session being held in the 1982/83 biennium, the Committee was required to elect a Chairman, a First Vice-Chairman and four other Vice-Chairmen. Admiral Abdu Rachman (Indonesia) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee; Mr. William G. Gordon (U.S.A.) was elected First Vice-Chairman, and representatives from Angola, the Federal Republic of Germany, Nicaragua, and Tunisia as other Vice-Chairmen.

KEY ISSUES FOR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

7. The Committee first reviewed, under item 4 of its agenda, major issues involved in the management and development of fisheries, including inland water fisheries and aquaculture as well as marine fisheries. It noted that the report of its discussions on the various components of this agenda item, together with agenda item 5 (basic elements for a strategy for fisheries management and development and for specific action programmes) would be a major contribution to the policy phase of the World Fisheries Conference in 1984.

(a) Objectives, Policies and Strategies for Fisheries Development

8. The Committee had before it, as a basis for its discussions, document COFI/83/3, which was supplemented by an introduction by the Secretariat. A number of developing coastal States indicated that the paper itself was too pessimistic about the possibilities of development of developing countries and could have reflected more adequately their aspirations. These delegations, however, were satisfied with the clarification given by the Secretariat when introducing the paper. Many delegations also referred to the usefulness of the Director-General's Keynote Address as valuable background to this item and general orientation for the debate of the Committee.

9. The fundamental changes which have occurred in the legal regime of the oceans, as embodied in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, have created an opportunity and need, on the

part of both developed and developing states, to re-examine their national objectives, strategies and policies for the development of fisheries. The Committee reviewed the complex and varied factors which have to be assessed by governments when planning fisheries development. It noted that a wide variety of national objectives can be identified; for example, increased domestic food supplies, increased employment, improved incomes for fishermen, earnings of foreign exchange through trade in fish and fish products. In some cases, such objectives may be conflicting and governments often have to make explicit choices or establish priorities from a range of desirable goals. The Committee recognized that there was therefore a basic need for governments to establish mechanisms and capacities for fisheries planning.

10. The Committee stated that the sovereign rights of each State to determine the most appropriate policy for the development of its fisheries and the utilization of its resources must be clearly recognized in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea adopted in 1982. The Committee noted that a single model for fisheries development was not applicable. The natural, physical and financial resources available, and national aspirations and social and economic targets, varied from country to country. Most of the countries stated that they wished to apply a policy based on the expansion of national fishing capacities, while others preferred to adopt a fisheries development strategy which included the negotiation of transitory joint ventures or bilateral access agreements while they developed their domestic fisheries. To avoid the danger of over-exploitation, careful management and investment planning, based upon research and scientific and economic information, was important. Whatever the choice of policy, or the expected rate of development, the foundation for the sound and sustained development of fisheries remained the conservation and rational management of the resources within the framework of careful planning. Expansion on resources which are not well researched and understood should be undertaken cautiously and step by step.

11. The Committee stressed that plans for the fisheries sector should be properly integrated within the framework of overall national objectives for economic and social development, since initiatives of other sectors of government could have major implications for fisheries. It emphasized the importance of achieving high level recognition of the potential of fisheries and the contribution they can make to national economic, social and nutritional goals.

12. The Committee emphasized that the setting of national objectives, policies and strategies for fisheries development must be mainly based on a thorough assessment of the type, size and state of the fish stocks and of the relevant social and economic conditions affecting fisheries. Reliable and timely data, statistics and scientific and socio-economic information facilitate research, planning and implementation of fishery management and development activities by scientists, economists, administrators and investors. The ability to collect national data and information as well as having access to regional and global data, including the creation of adequate infrastructures to provide such information to users, thus becomes desirable for fishery development.

13. Following from this, the Committee stressed the importance of sound management for stocks heavily exploited and stocks to be exploited in the course of development in order to ensure continuity, sustainability and stability in fishery yields.

14. At the same time, the Committee recognized that fisheries development plans should be dynamic and that they may need revision and adaptation in the light of changes in the resource base, in the species mix or in the domestic and international markets. Development plans should also take full account not only of the means required for the exploitation of the fish resources themselves but also of processing, transport, distribution and marketing requirements.

15. Attention was drawn to the influence of changes in the marine and inland water environments upon fisheries development. Plans should therefore take due account of the need to protect the habitats from the effects of pollution and the industrial or urban development of coastal and riverine areas.

16. The Committee agreed that the important contributions of inland water fisheries and aquaculture should be fully taken into account when planning fisheries development, particularly with respect to the improved food supply and socio-economic conditions of rural populations. At the same time, the special characteristics of aquaculture, which in some respects had much in common with agriculture, were noted.

17. Fisheries strategies should also take into account, at an early stage, nutritional considerations and the integration of fisheries development plans into national nutrition policies. Attention was drawn in this respect to the expert consultation on this subject recently organized by the Government of Norway and to the proposal for a special plan of action to promote the role of fisheries in alleviating undernutrition.

18. The Committee noted that small-scale fisheries, which are of marked socio-economic importance in many countries, may require special support from governments. In this respect, attention was drawn to the importance of designing and introducing, through strong extension services, technologies appropriate to and based upon local conditions rather than importing unsuitable technologies from other countries or regions. At the same time, development policies should try to ensure a proper balance between the potentials and needs of both the artisanal and industrial sectors. Development of national industrial fisheries is required, in many instances, to ensure the full and rational exploitation of fishery resources in exclusive economic zones. Such development necessitates strong multi-disciplinary research management, training and a careful evaluation of the socio-economic impacts likely to be produced by the parallel or alternative development of small and large scale operations.

19. The Committee also placed considerable emphasis upon the need for training in fisheries based upon an analysis of manpower requirements, particularly with regard to the assessment of conditions pertaining to duty performance after training. Appropriate new skills and technologies are required to establish and implement policies and programmes for fisheries development. The improvement of national self-reliance and competence is thus one of the key factors in promoting the better use of the world's fish resources.

20. Attention was further drawn to the need to pursue vigorously policies and programmes designed to reduce post-harvest losses and waste, both at sea and during processing, transport and storage.

21. The Committee underlined the importance of close consultation and collaboration between all groups concerned with fisheries development and the need for the participation of administrators, scientists and fishermen's representatives in the formulation and execution of fisheries management and development plans. This requires the existence of adequate structures for consultations.

22. Sovereign rights over fisheries in exclusive economic zones may bring with it the need to review existing legal and institutional framework for fisheries development, management and control. National legislation and administrative structures should therefore be re-examined, as appropriate, by individual countries and, where necessary adapted to ensure that government policies for fisheries development and management were effectively executed; close cooperation was needed between the various government departments and national agencies whose decisions, in one respect or another, affect the fisheries sector.

23. The Committee observed that, notwithstanding the recognition of sovereign rights in exclusive economic zones over fish resources, international, regional and sub-regional collaboration in fisheries development and conservation remained of importance. It emphasized the value of existing mechanisms for such collaboration, for example FAO regional fishery bodies. It called for renewed support for such bodies and for their associated sub-regional technical assistance projects. The Committee noted with appreciation the role of regional organizations such as the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (SPFFA). In this connexion, the Committee noted the Declaration issued by the recent meeting of the Ministers of Fisheries of the SELA Action Committee on Marine and Freshwater Products, in which it was stated that the sovereign rights of States to preserve and utilize the fishery resources within their jurisdictional waters must be respected, and that this entailed the adoption of agreed regional strategies through which to ensure full realization of the national fishery development aspirations of all the countries in the region. The Committee also emphasized the need for continued and reinforced support for such channels for cooperation and for the fostering of improved mechanisms for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) and Economic Cooperation between Developing Countries (ECDC).

24. Two delegations considered that such joint efforts and technical collaboration could be enhanced by the participation in such regional organizations of other countries from outside the region, whose fishing fleets were operating in the said region.

25. Some delegations brought to the attention of the Committee the situation of states which previously had engaged in extensive distant water fisheries and which now were experiencing certain difficulties with their access to surplus resources in some EEZs. They observed that extended national jurisdiction over fisheries brings not only new rights to coastal states but also new responsibilities for their optimum utilization.

26. Other delegations recalled that their countries' sovereign rights over adjacent waters, now called exclusive economic zones, were proclaimed inter alia long ago precisely for reserving their resources for their national benefit.

27. The Committee also noted the special difficulties, particularly under the current world economic conditions, confronting many developing countries, especially small island states, as they strive to increase the contribution of fisheries to the strengthening of their economic independence. FAO was requested to expand and reinforce its programmes of technical assistance to developing countries, especially in such aspects as policy and planning, management and conservation of resources, training, fisheries legislation, scientific research, technology transfer and the monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries.

28. The Committee noted with appreciation the offers of collaboration and assistance by a number of member nations, in particular China (freshwater fish culture), Poland (krill exploitation) Japan (establishment of fishermen's cooperatives), Brazil (aquaculture), and Cuba (regional cooperation in the Caribbean region).

29. In the field of inland fisheries and aquaculture, adoption of an integrated policy of land and water uses was advocated to utilize the fisheries potential existing in this field.

(b) Principles and Techniques of Fisheries Management

30. Agenda Item 4(b) was introduced by the Secretariat, who presented document COFI/83/4. The document was warmly received by the Committee who commented on many of the points raised and amplified certain aspects as follows.

Problems in Fisheries Management

31. Most discussion centred around the problems the various countries were experiencing with the management of their fisheries. It was considered that good management of fisheries is an integral part of the development process. To be effective, it requires an adequate supply of information on the resource base, the industry and the available manpower as well as a Government infrastructure capable of translating this information into policy. Attention was drawn to the fact that, to be fully effective, the collection of information, the analysis of resource data and the evaluation of impacts of other human activities on fisheries, need to be initiated as early as possible in the development process. There was a widespread opinion too that the problems of shared resources need special mechanisms for intergovernmental communication and coordination. All these activities require trained manpower and serious problems have been experienced in many countries in finding qualified personnel for their implementation.

32. In some areas fishing has developed on the basis of free, open access to shared resources. There has been no incentive for individual fishermen to conserve the stock. However, when a fishery reaches the stage of full exploitation unless management is introduced, fishermen will compete increasingly strongly among themselves for their shares of a finite stock. This pattern of development frequently leads to depletion of the resources, severe overcapitalization and depressed earnings for the industry.

33. Even delegates from developed countries with a good infrastructure remarked on the few examples where an appropriate balance has been achieved between investment in harvesting, monitoring and protection of the resource, processing, distribution and marketing. It was considered that the needs for such basic items of infrastructure must be taken into account at the initiation of fisheries development, together with the provision of shore facilities including shipyards, repair facilities, harbours and training facilities for fishermen and administrators and technicians.

34. The Committee noted that over the last few years, several factors have had a significant impact on the fishery sector, especially the high costs of fuel, and the scarcity of credit or financial

resources for fisheries development. These have significantly slowed the pace of development, particularly in developing countries.

35. In discussing the causes of overfishing throughout the world, the Committee concluded that a number of factors were involved. These factors include the difficulties facing some governments in restricting the right of exploitation of fishermen and therefore redistributing or changing their income. Also certain fisheries investment decisions have sometimes been based on over optimistic expectations about the resources.

36. The idea of fisheries management as directed toward the increase of catch rates in addition to overall catch was introduced. Higher catch rates mean that less fuel and time are used to obtain the same catch although it may require cut-backs in effort that would be painful in the short term. After several years, however, this policy begins to show real dividends, by making the products more competitive on world markets and freeing financial resources for other purposes.

37. The impacts of environmental fluctuations on the resource users were noted. These impacts include changes in species composition, distribution ranges or migration patterns, which are difficult to predict, and often disrupt fishing and marketing strategies. They may also affect the harvest from a shared resource by the countries involved. It was recognized that improving the basic science and the capability for forecasting, where possible, the oceanographic phenomena responsible (e.g., El Nino), is an important priority for FAO, which should work in cooperation with other international agencies such as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), Unesco, Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (PCSP) and other international fishery bodies, as well as with the governments themselves. Attention was drawn to the growing needs of other users from the same country as regards the EEZ and of inland waters, generally, for industrial waste disposal, tourism and harvesting of non-renewable resources. These, and the generally high cost and demand for riparian land have serious impacts on fisheries, fishermen and aquaculture. It was considered that such impacts can be avoided only by integrated planning of all government departments concerned with the development and planning of water-related activities.

38. Catches of most traditional commercial species have stagnated in many parts of the world and in some fishing grounds stocks are even overexploited; therefore, the priorities for expansion of the fishery were felt to depend on two major policies: firstly, that management should be aimed at preserving and improving the yield from stocks at present under exploitation and, secondly, in the development of new and unexploited resources. The implementation of both these policies was recognized widely to be limited by the resource data at present available. A high priority was, therefore, placed on the expansion of research to identify new stocks and to better describe the biology and ecology of those at present forming the subject of fisheries.

The Role of Governments in Fisheries Management

39. The Committee agreed that there was a strong role for Governments, which have a responsibility to consult with and coordinate all national interest groups, and also internationally to seek necessary agreements on the use of resources, particularly in the case that the same stock or stocks of associated species which occur within or adjacent to the EEZ. It should also make sure that the appropriate advice is available nationally (through training programmes) and internationally (by scientific exchange and cooperation through international agencies). In advocating this role, however, it was recognized that effective formulation of objectives and implementation of fishery policies is only possible by involving the fishing industry and the fishermen themselves in the management process.

40. It was pointed out that whereas it is the nature of fishermen and investors to seek for immediate individual benefits from fisheries, the response of the fishery itself, beyond a certain level of participation, may lead to a progressive reduction of benefits, economic stagnation and even finally to a collapse in stocks. To mitigate this, the Government's role was seen as to ensure that allocation of benefits is consistent with the productivity of resources and to the benefit of the community as a whole.

41. The role of Government agencies in the collection of basic data for the identification of new fisheries as well as for the monitoring of established fisheries was emphasized by the Committee. Data to be collected should include statistics on catches, fishing effort, fleet size and number of fishermen, and may need to be supplemented by fisheries survey activities backed up by a strong

capability for the analysis and monitoring of trends in the stocks. It was also considered that the impact of natural environmental fluctuations and pollution on the resources should be monitored by Government, and in inland waters requires active participation by the fisheries departments in decision-making in the allocation of land and water use insofar as this affects the fishery. This involves the provision of adequate funding for research personnel, to work closely with those involved in guiding management and development. The advice of the scientists should be sought in relation to the planning process, taking into account the socio-economic situation to the extent possible, as dictated by the overall limits of production, and conservation of the resource.

42. The Committee also discussed the need for properly framed and integrated national legislations for orderly development. This legislation could be harmonized, where possible, with legislation of neighbouring countries on the inter-related aspects. At the same time, the adverse impact that poorly-framed and over-restrictive regulations have on the fishery development was emphasized. It was noted that there is little advantage in framing regulations if enforcement capability does not exist. The costs of enforcement should be taken into account, particularly as they relate to the benefits expected in developing the fishery.

Techniques of Management

43. An exchange of experience in this area during discussion of this item provided some ideas for appropriate fisheries management. Such exchange could be shared on a more formal case study basis in advance of the World Fisheries Conference, and can be supplemented by short-term exchanges or visits by administrators between countries sharing common problems in fisheries. FAO can play a useful role here in identifying at the request of governments exchange possibilities and availability of trained expertise in various areas.

44. Much discussion centred on problems of shared resources and the need for some coordinated approach for managing these stocks. Clearly, agreement to bring total catches into line with estimated sustainable yields is the big problem but is one also faced by governments with wholly national stocks, when the demands of interest groups usually exceed potential supply. The experience in the N.E. Atlantic showed that in the early stage of such a process, agreement on national allocations was easy to obtain. However, final catches tended to exceed both those agreed by international consultation and those recommended by fishery biologists so that overfishing occurred. No immediate improvement in the state of resources was, therefore, obtained.

45. It was recognized that diversification of fishing methods is often essential to make the most use of resources. Here, traditional "passive" or fixed fishing methods often become more attractive as cost of fuel increases. Allocation of fishing areas by gear type and by season may be a way of ensuring resource conservation or better utilization if enforcement problems exist and there are difficulties in applying quotas. However, in cases of conflict between methods, some delegations considered that cautious measures should be taken until such time as sufficient information is available for the formulation of a better policy. Two delegations, however, considered that in such circumstances it might be better to adopt a cautious approach as a transitory measure.

46. The provision of financing in small units and at a level appropriate to the small-scale fishing sector was acknowledged to require government infrastructures. These should include the development of extension services, which will also serve to communicate policy decisions to fishermen, as well as providing information on better methods of harvesting. Here, the cooperative concept was felt to be useful in improving productive capacity of the fishermen and facilitating communications and financing arrangements between the Government and industry.

47. The need for central collection of data and their analysis from all fleets fishing a common resource was considered essential for management by the Committee. Jointly-run data centres have been proposed in some areas, to allow cooperative financing of statistical services and as a focus for regional training and standardization of data-gathering for the resources. The advice of FAO was requested to assist in the setting up and running of such bodies, which may eventually come to acquire a more central role in organizing joint scientific work on management of these resources. These bodies may take the form of boards and commissions with agreed, if limited, powers of action. Such bodies can also be the focal point for regional research vessel surveys, tagging campaigns, etc., and for harmonization of national regulations if requested.

48. The representative of IOC said that it was organizing a workshop to optimize the use of research vessels for fisheries research. International bodies like FAO and IOC are working closely together, particularly in the area of marine environmental and resource research, and in reviewing special problems such as the El Nino phenomenon, and they are encouraged to coordinate and use the services and capabilities of existing regional and sub-regional fisheries bodies in accomplishing this task. The Committee felt that these bodies can play an important role in preparing and coordinating attendance at the World Fisheries Conference next year.

49. The usefulness of FAO's regional bodies was endorsed. These can, with appropriate technical support, continue to play a vital role in exchange of information, research and development of the fishing industry, or even in management of existing stocks, especially if shared by several countries. A more direct FAO role in this area was suggested by several countries in which the necessary skills are not yet available, and where the fishery potential may never provide the necessary resources to support an extension in national capability. The problem of funding for such technical support projects which has been developing over the last few financial cycles is the major constraint on the further expansion of these activities.

50. One function proposed for FAO regional projects is an inventory of national and regional skills and facilities as a basis for TCDC programmes between neighbouring countries. This is particularly essential in the present restrictive financial climate in making the best use of regional resources, as well as providing the information and framework needed by donor agencies in project formulation and implementation.

(c) Conditions and Control of Access to Fishery Resources in Exclusive Economic Zones

51. Prior to the introduction of this agenda item, a proposal was made that the agenda item should not be examined since it dealt with political and legal rather than purely technical matters. It was also suggested that Document COFI/83/5 should be withdrawn. In the ensuing discussion, there was strong support for retaining the agenda item. Several delegations proposed that document COFI/83/5 should not form the basis for the discussions on this agenda item. Other delegations, however, disagreed. The Chairman ruled that while the agenda item would be discussed, the document would not be introduced.

52. In the ensuing discussions, most delegates stressed the overriding importance of the central concept of the sovereign rights of the coastal State with respect to the exploration, exploitation, conservation and management of the living resources of the exclusive economic zone. The institution of exclusive economic zones offered the coastal States increased opportunities for the development of their national fisheries and for deriving full benefits for their peoples. In this context, the Committee emphasized that primary importance should be given to the objective of the development of domestic fisheries and national harvesting capabilities in the zones. Several delegates proposed that the primary role for FAO should be in assisting the developing coastal States in the development of their national capacity through provision of information on resource availability and the development of technology and management capability in general.

53. A number of delegates suggested that the issues of access to fishery resources of exclusive economic zones should be viewed as part only of the wider issue of the rational management of marine living resources, including in particular the problems raised by the management and conservation of stocks occurring both within exclusive economic zones and on the high seas outside those zones. A few delegations pointed out that outside the exclusive economic zones, the management of these stocks was subject to the regime of international cooperation envisaged in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in that part of it concerning the conservation of living resources in the high seas and that in accordance with this regime coastal States and all other States have the same right to share in these fisheries. The Committee recommended that the scope of the topic to be submitted to the World Fisheries Conference in 1984 should be broadened accordingly and in compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

54. Most delegates felt that the granting of access to foreign fishing fleets to the resources of the exclusive economic zones of coastal States should be viewed as merely a transitory phase. A number of ways in which this phase could be accelerated were suggested, including the promotion of joint ventures, arrangements for the transfer of technology, scientific research training and employment of coastal state nationals on foreign vessels fishing in the exclusive economic zone. Access arrangements should take into account the need to protect national fisheries from the effects of increased

competition on the resources. In addition, mention was made of the linkages between access to resources and access to markets. A number of delegates pointed out that in their countries, objectives of national fisheries development would take some time to achieve. In the meantime they had insufficient domestic fishing capacity to take full advantage of the resources of their zones. Their concern was to derive the maximum benefits for their peoples from the exploitation of those resources. In this context they would continue to accept foreign fishing in their zones, and in some cases were looking for longer-term, more stable arrangements with foreign fishing states that would enable the coastal States to derive greater economic benefits and a greater degree of control over the fishing operations. One delegation suggested that there should be an analysis and inventory of existing distant-water fishing fleets that could be made available to those coastal States wishing to grant access to under-exploited stocks in their zones.

55. The Committee agreed on the necessity for the conservation and rational utilization of the fishery resources in the exclusive economic zones. A few delegations noted that there are some cases where foreign fishing fleets have to withdraw from their fishing grounds because of high fishing fees and difficult regulations, and some of these grounds have remained little or non-utilized.

56. One delegation felt that, in some areas, where fishing is close to the Total Allowable Catch (TAC), an increase in the level of foreign fishing will result in a decrease of catch-per-unit effort in the local fishing operating on the same stock. In other, abundant areas, where fishing is in a rudimentary or experimental stage or far from the established TAC, foreign fishing appears to be most advantageous on both biological and economical grounds. Foreign fishing activity will depend on the balancing of economic and social gains against disadvantages considered separately in a given area and during a given period of cooperation.

57. Several countries pointed out that it was not appropriate to include the TAC indicator since it was used in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and was subject to the concept of the optimal use of the living resources of the sea, which is the fundamental guide. They also recalled that the application and determination of the TAC concept in the EEZ is the strict competence of the coastal state concerned, in accordance with the sovereign rights it has in this respect.

58. A number of delegations described the difficulties they faced in managing their new exclusive economic zones caused by the limitation of their national administrative and technical capacities. This made it difficult for them to assess the state of the resources and existing fishing operations in their zones and to control those operations effectively. Several delegations described the difficulties in obtaining data on catches taken within their zones by the vessels of distant-water fishing nations. The Committee stressed the need of developing coastal States for more information on the resources and fishing operations in their zones and adjacent high seas areas, and recommended that FAO should do all it could to increase the flow of information on these matters.

59. The Committee recognized the importance of increased regional cooperation in approaching problems of fisheries management, conservation and exploitation and the control of foreign fishing operations. The Committee also recognized that this cooperation could include the harmonization of fisheries legislation on a regional or subregional basis, and the establishment of regional cooperative mechanisms that would enhance the control of the coastal States over foreign fishing operations at the least administrative cost to all parties involved.

60. It was pointed out that the access of foreign fleets to the exclusive economic zone of a coastal State should necessarily entail cooperation between the parties involved.

61. As one of the techniques for facilitating compliance, many delegations supported the concept of regional registers of foreign fishing vessels. It was noted that such a register has already been established for a large area of the South Pacific and that it is improving the States' ability to ensure compliance. Several delegates from other regions expressed interest in adopting similar registers on a regional or sub-regional basis.

62. Several delegations urged that efforts be made to ensure that flag States accept responsibility for preventing their fishing vessels from infringing the fishery laws of coastal States and noted that this would greatly facilitate the task of ensuring compliance with coastal state requirements. A few delegates from countries with distant-water fishing vessels described the legislative and regulatory steps that they had taken to ensure that their vessels abided by the agreements worked out with the coastal states.

63. It was also noted that coastal States could help ensure flag State action to control their vessels by requiring that access arrangements be made within the context of government to government agreements which include provisions for such responsibility.

64. Some delegations suggested that masters of fishing vessels when breaching fishery laws while operating in foreign coastal States' zones might be required by the flag State to return to the coastal State for trial in the coastal State's courts. Other delegations, however, were not in favour of such a requirement.

65. The need for greater information on conditions of access and on coastal States' legislation covering access was mentioned by numerous delegations. Several pointed out that the discussions on the agenda item were of particular interest to them in enlarging their knowledge of the ways in which other coastal states dealt with the problems of access. Strong support was given for the continuation of FAO's role in collecting and disseminating information on coastal States' requirements and legislation governing access conditions. Some delegations suggested that the dissemination of such information might be facilitated by holding regional and sub-regional seminars. Several delegations referred to the fact that the new international regime for fisheries required them to revise or adopt new legislation. The importance of legislation was noted not only for coastal States in achieving rational use of their EEZs but also for States with distant-water vessels in achieving flag State responsibility. A number of delegations expressed their appreciation for the assistance being provided by FAO in this regard.

66. Several delegations noted that the standardization and greater prominence in the marking of distant-water fishing vessels could, at very small cost, greatly ease the task of compliance. It was suggested that the marking be based on the vessels' radio call signs. This was a matter which could be taken up at the policy phase of the World Fisheries Conference and be the subject of a resolution of the Conference.

67. Several delegations felt that observer programmes would be a useful mechanism for ensuring compliance by foreign fishing vessels with their fishery law and access agreements. One delegation explained that the cost of deploying observers could be borne by the foreign vessels involved.

68. Some delegations believed that it was important to stress the spirit of Article 300 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which refers to the good faith in which the States parties should fulfil obligations assumed under the Convention and should exercise the rights, jurisdiction and freedoms recognized in the Convention in a manner which would not constitute an abuse of right.

(d) Special Problems of Small-scale Fisheries

69. The Committee emphasized that small-scale fisheries was one of the priority areas in the context of fisheries development and management, and that this should be reflected in the Strategy for fishery management and development and the associated action programmes. The World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development presented a timely and valuable opportunity to examine the role and needs of small-scale fisheries and stress their importance in the context of member countries' social and economic development.

70. The Committee noted that in many countries fish landed by small-scale fisheries was the main source of animal protein available to the local population. It also stressed the importance of small-scale fisheries in providing employment.

71. The experience of many countries had been that it was very difficult to reduce the number of active fishermen as a possible means to limit fishing pressure on scarce resources. Reallocation of labour could sometimes be brought about by the provision of employment in processing, marketing, mariculture, or other related ancillary sectors.

72. It was pointed out that although marine capture fisheries were often emphasized in international meetings, production from inland waters was extremely important for many countries. In this connexion it was stressed that increased cooperation in research, management, and development was called for where inland waterways and lakes were shared by several countries.

73. The Committee agreed that an integrated approach was essential for successful sustained small-scale fisheries development and management. This integration should include not only

components in the production chain (resource management, capture, processing, transport, marketing, credit, and supply of inputs), but also the social and economic welfare of the small-scale fisherfolk themselves. Expertise on the human, social and socio-economic side was essential and needed to be provided from the beginning of development project to facilitate community participation in planning. It would also help in mobilization of local skills and appropriate involvement of women, in the development process. Non-governmental organizations could contribute effectively and inexpensively to an integrated approach at the village level. It was recognized that sustained improvement in this sector usually required assistance over long periods of time and examples were quoted where this had resulted in notable socio-economic success.

74. With respect to fisheries resources and their management, the Committee pointed out the importance of continuing stock assessment as a base on which to build and revise small-scale fisheries development and management plans. Although important under-utilized stocks still existed in some areas, more commonly there was excessive fishing pressure on limited stocks. Management was needed and it was emphasized that as far as possible regulatory measures needed to be formulated in close consultation with the fishermen, to ensure their implementation. Lagoons, estuaries, and rivers were often in particular need of protection from both overfishing and pollution. Small-scale fishermen often found themselves in competition with industrialized and medium-scale fishing vessels for the same nearshore resource, and need regulatory protection. Traditional fisheries management systems still existed in many areas, and could sometimes be used as models for other areas. Some countries felt that FAO could assist them in the drafting of management regulations for the protection of small-scale fisheries.

75. The Committee noted that the acquisition of good data bases needed for management remained a problem. The multispecies nature of many fisheries, especially in tropical areas, called for new analytical methods. Technical cooperation and training were required in this respect.

76. The Committee gave special attention to the need for international cooperation in the development of effective fisheries administrations. The need was stressed for training of administrators and organizational/business managers for the small-scale fisheries sector. A lack in such skills was limiting the absorptive capacities of many developing countries. This training was particularly urgent for small island states, and the suggestion was made that regional training programmes and regional pooling of high level expertise with FAO assistance could accelerate improvements.

77. The problems posed by the physical requirements of many small-scale fisheries lead to a continuing need for work on the improvement and adaptation of vessels and gear to meet changing conditions. Maximum use should be made of locally available materials and sources of energy. The useful work already undertaken by FAO and other bodies in this respect was noted and it was suggested that further regional training courses in boat construction and operation should be organized with the assistance of FAO and other international agencies.

78. The Committee emphasized the importance of improved methods of fish handling, processing, transport and marketing in small-scale fisheries in order to reduce post-harvest losses. Some fisheries do not develop because of the lack of adequate transportation and distribution networks. The assistance of FAO in helping to set up effective and well-organized marketing systems was requested. Increased assistance in these aspects was one of the most important possibilities to increase food fish supplies for the benefit of rural and coastal populations.

79. The lack of adequate financing and credit lines posed strong limitations for improving the lot of small fishermen. Various schemes have been used to assist the small-scale fishermen outside the traditional forms of credit, including subsidising boats, equipment and fuel, the provision of loans through rural banks and fishermen's cooperatives, as well as exemption from import duties and taxes. The lack of foreign exchange needed to import spare parts, materials and fuel was a problem affecting the small-scale operator severely.

80. The assistance and support that governments of interested countries could give to small-scale fisheries was considered to be essential. In addition to support through resource management, subsidies, and credit, governments needed to provide technical assistance, training, market regulation and land-based infrastructure. In this context, a number of delegations reported the establishment of community fisheries centres designed to provide technical support and production inputs to surrounding fishing communities.

81. The Committee noted the importance of fishermen's organizations in the development context. Cooperatives had not always been successful but were indicated by many delegations as possible organizational structures getting substantial government support. Many experiments with other types of fishermen's organizations were being attempted, ranging from "fisheries extension service societies" to state enterprises for small-scale fisheries. It was often difficult to convince small-scale fishermen to collectivize and there was a clear need for strong, effective guidance and training in support of fishermen's organizations, and for full participation of fishermen and women in their own organization.

82. The Committee considered fisheries extension services to be among the weakest links in the existing small-scale fisheries development structure. Many extension services lacked a systematic approach and organizational framework, as well as good, well-trained supervisors, and expert extension agents willing to live and work at the village level. Extension services were often not well integrated into small-scale fisheries development plans. Assistance was needed for the training of new extension agents and the upgrading of those already in the field.

83. The Committee pointed out that training was an essential ingredient for improving all aspects of small-scale fisheries. Although the training of small-scale fisherfolk themselves must necessarily be a national concern, there was wide scope for international cooperation in the training of fisheries officers, technical specialists, and administrators at all levels. Extensive TCDC exchange of experts, the use of specialists from the region as regional workshop instructors, and the use of regional technical centres for the training of high level specialists should be further developed. It was important to ensure that the trained people were utilized properly and provided with the essential tools to put their training to good use.

84. The often slow delivery of project inputs by international funding and executing agencies after signing the relevant agreement was commented upon. The Committee recommended that ways be found to speed up the delivery of projects. Also, when possible, other ways such as the establishment of regional or sub-regional funds for the development of small-scale fisheries should be taken into consideration.

85. The Committee felt that FAO had an important role to play in assisting Member Countries with the development and management of their small-scale fisheries. FAO's involvement should include a catalytic, advisory, training, and demonstration role in all aspects of small-scale fisheries. Particular attention was drawn to the need for assistance in project planning and the coordination of regional groups.

(e) Special Problems of Small Developing Island States in the Management and Development of Fisheries under the New Regime of the Oceans

86. The agenda item was opened by an introduction of Document COFI/83/7. The Committee considered generally that the document provided a useful basis for discussion. However some delegations expressed concern about a few specific points. It was felt that it was inappropriate to refer to the problems associated with the setting of baselines for the delimitation of economic zones. It was also suggested that discussion of groups of small developing island States should not be limited to a few regions but should be broadened to include all small developing island States throughout the world.

87. The Committee recognized the special problems of small developing island States, including the scarcity of trained manpower; the difficulties of obtaining resource information; the isolation and need for regional approaches; the lack of infrastructure and consequent difficulties of developing their own fishery industries; and the problems of communication and transportation.

88. Several delegations from developing island States emphasized the need for training, particularly with regard to the strengthening of institutions for the management and development of their EEZs. Reference was made to the need for coordinating the foreign aid so as to achieve an integrated and coordinated approach to development and management. Some delegations requested training in the development of new fishing techniques to suit their particular situations. A suggestion was made that training could be facilitated by the exchange of information among different island groups.

89. The benefits of regional cooperation among small developing island States were emphasized by many delegations. Economies of scale could be achieved by such cooperation in a variety of matters,

including research and monitoring, control and surveillance. The benefits of such cooperation in the South Pacific region were noted and other regional groupings of States expressed strong interest in the possibilities of following similar approaches.

90. The Committee generally stressed the need for improved information on the resources and on their evaluation. Particular reference was made to the need for the development of stock assessment models relevant to the special conditions of coral atolls.

91. Harmonization of legislation was mentioned as an area of particular interest. Several delegations expressed gratitude to FAO for the help their countries had received in the drafting of legislation for the use of their resources in their EEZs. There was general agreement that this kind of assistance was particularly valuable and should be continued.

92. Most of the delegations indicated that their long-term objective was to develop their own capacity to harvest, process and market the fishery resources, particularly the tunas, in their EEZs. They felt that, in the interim, they could achieve large benefits by permitting foreign fishing in their zones. It was suggested that FAO could play a useful role in examining alternative ways in which the island States could obtain benefits from foreign fishing.

93. The need for assistance in the development of their own fisheries was stressed. Several kinds of assistance were specified - aid in baitfish culture; improvements in fish aggregation devices; optimum size and type of tuna vessels; processing; market information and improved access to markets; new fishing techniques suitable for small-scale fisheries; and others.

94. Gratitude was expressed to FAO for the special attention being given to the problems of small developing island States and for the relevant activities of the EEZ Programme. It was suggested that FAO might give increased attention in its Regular Programme to the areas of particular relevance to the small developing island States and it was agreed that treatment of their special problems should be appropriately reflected in the Strategy and the Action Programmes to be submitted to the World Fisheries Conference.

(f) Special Problems of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture

95. The topics of inland fisheries and aquaculture were reviewed on the basis of document COFI/83/8. The twin subjects considered under this agenda item were felt to be sufficiently different as to merit separate treatment. Although in some regions capture and culture practices overlap and obscure any distinction between them, inland fisheries were more generally taken by the meeting to deal only with those capture activities conducted in inland waters, whereas aquaculture included all forms of artificial rearing of fish in both inland and marine waters.

Inland Fisheries

96. The significance of freshwater fish as an element in the diet of many countries was widely recognized. This source of protein is particularly significant for the poorer elements of the community and in those areas furthest from the sea such as landlocked states or in countries whose marine resources are poor. In view of this importance the Committee emphasized that the final policy phase of World Fisheries Conference should devote special attention to the role of inland fisheries.

97. In discussing the problems of the development and management of inland capture fisheries, delegates considered that these were so similar to those of small-scale marine fisheries discussed under agenda item 4(d) that they did not warrant further exploration here. However a number of aspects peculiar to inland fisheries remained to be discussed.

98. A problem experienced by most countries lies in the use of the inland waters for a number of purposes other than fisheries. Many of these actively reduce fish stocks through pollution or environmental degradation although this is not always the case, as instances were cited, such as rice fields or reservoirs where human interventions also increase the capacity for fish production either by capture or culture. Because fisheries is only one use amongst many in such circumstances it was strongly felt that fisheries planners should participate actively at the national and international level in the decision making for integrated basin development to ensure that adequate water quantity and quality are maintained for fisheries.

99. In the opinion of the Committee the particular problems of waters bordering two or more countries, which include migratory stocks and the transfer of adverse environmental impacts downstream should be approached by international basin groups which could operate under the aegis of the appropriate regional fishery bodies. The regional fishery bodies were also felt to be the appropriate mechanisms for cooperation in the development and management of inland waters bordering two or more countries, particular emphasis being placed on the use of such mechanisms for the research and management of the fisheries of the African great lakes by the riparian countries.

100. Concern was expressed as to the impacts of introduced species on the ecology of native species; however, several examples were cited where valuable capture fisheries have been based on new species introduced into the waters of some countries. Furthermore current aquaculture practice is based on relatively few species which have been widely transplanted outside their native ranges. Efforts by FAO to encourage a cautious approach to further introductions were supported.

101. The expansion of exploitation and the protection of inland fish stocks is limited in many member countries by the lack of surveys and suitable models for the assessment of their stocks and for their management. FAO was requested to continue its assistance to member countries in these activities through its regular programme and, where funds are available, through its field programme. Particular areas where such techniques were felt to be lacking were in the assessment and management of stocks of anadromous species, resources of rivers, coastal lagoons and newly created reservoirs.

102. As in other sectors the lack of trained manpower to research and manage inland fisheries is apparent in many countries. FAO was requested to expand, where possible, its training activities in these topics at the levels of the fisheries extension workers, the scientists and administrators and at the level of those higher officials engaged in planning the allocation of the aquatic resource. Direct activities should be supplemented by exchange of experience and expertise among countries through TCDC.

Aquaculture

103. Most of the delegations stressed the importance of aquaculture for a great number of reasons which varied from one particular country to another. In landlocked countries in particular, the emphasis was given to aquaculture as a ready source of food both in rural and urban areas as well as a source of employment, income and foreign exchange. It was also pointed out that being flexible in its form and scale of production, aquaculture was most adaptable to the rural farmers. The role that can be played by women in this activity was also underlined and it was noted that involvement of women in aquaculture results in diverting more fish to family consumption. Finally, the value of aquaculture production to supplement the depleted fresh water and marine stocks was emphasized by several delegates.

104. Many constraints still exist for the development of aquaculture and these were stressed by the delegates. Pollution threatens the quality of water supplies. In the developing countries there is a general shortage of the major inputs such as seeds and feeds. Because of the relatively recent development of aquaculture, major technological constraints still exist such as the control of the full life-cycle of many of the cultivated organisms and demonstrations of the economic viability of the known cultural systems. There is a lack of trained personnel at all levels. In most countries financial constraints also constitute a significant handicap, both at the government level for supporting aquaculture development adequately and at the private level for generating investments in this sector.

105. The Committee agreed that aquaculture deserves much more attention than it now receives from many government planning units and donor agencies. The World Fisheries Conference should play an important role in furthering the development of aquaculture by calling on governments to embark, if they have not yet done so, on a high-level analysis of the significance of aquaculture development in their own country, followed by the formulation of an aquaculture policy and plans for implementing this policy.

106. The Committee underlined the need to integrate aquaculture into rural development programmes, involving the target groups as well as the necessary variety of expertise in the planning of such programmes.

107. The need for further technical and financial assistance aimed at the development of aquaculture through research, training, and demonstrations was brought forward by most delegations. The Committee recommended that the World Fisheries Conference make a special plea to donor groups and international agencies to increase their support, working more intimately and thoroughly with governments of developing countries in identifying projects or programmes consistent with their policies and which can reasonably be expected to be continued long enough to achieve their expected objectives.

108. In this connexion the quality of the assistance provided by FAO in the field of aquaculture was praised by several countries. Efforts to disseminate information and to organize training were particularly appreciated. The establishment of the global network of regional training and research aquaculture centres was considered as a major achievement, to be strengthened in the future by the creation of new centres and by linking them with national centres. There was a general agreement that long-term financial and other arrangements should be found for ensuring the continuity of these networks. The wish was also expressed that more priority be given within FAO itself to aquaculture, giving particular emphasis to development of small scale units.

109. The Committee endorsed the aquaculture development strategy adopted at the Conference held in Kyoto and suggested that it should become part of the proposed Strategy for fisheries management and development to be considered by the policy phase of the World Fisheries Conference. Appreciating the great untapped potential of aquaculture in tanks, lakes and coastal areas, the Committee recommended that an International Year for Aquaculture be observed in the near future to focus attention on the need for experimental research; on starting pilot and definitive projects in countries; on exchange of information relating to aquaculture and on increased flow of credit for international financing bodies to raise production.

(g) International Trade in Fish and Fishery Products

110. The item was discussed on the basis of documents COFI/83/9 and COFI/83/Inf.5, which referred to the present structure of international trade, principal commodities, major problems and possible actions to reduce their negative impact on trade. The Committee considered that various measures suggested for improving the participation and performance of developing countries in international trade were in line with the recommendations and decisions of several international conferences, e.g., the Panama Declaration of the Action Committee on Marine and Freshwater Products of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) of 1983, the Caracas Action Programme on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries of 1981 and the Montevideo Treaty Establishing the Latin American Association for Integration (ALADI) of 1980.

111. In view of the importance which the World Fisheries Conference is expected to attach to the aspects of international trade, the suggestion was made that studies on the following subjects could serve as background material for the preparation of the relevant documentation: possibilities to improve the structure of international trade in fish and fishery products; development in the terms of trade for fishery products; financial situation of the world's fishing industry; barter trade possibilities and fish export promotion, taking into account the interests and requirements of developing countries exporters of fishery products; and arrangements for financing exports.

112. FAO was requested to review specific trade barriers, both direct and indirect, and to elaborate proposals on how these could be overcome.

113. One of the principal problems in trade was the difficulty for some developing industries to achieve consistent and precisely defined grades of quality. However, there were encouraging examples of industry attaining this goal and it was noted that there are frequent cases where importers or organizations in developed countries offer technical cooperation and training to their suppliers in the developing world. Various delegations expressed their willingness to continue and expand the technical cooperation that their countries offer in this field.

114. The development of criteria for fair trade, including the harmonization of inspection procedures and regulations, and the provision of technical advice on fish handling and processing were considered a priority area for FAO activities in fish trade development.

115. There was unanimous agreement that international trade in fishery products offered a great potential for technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, as well as between

developing countries and industrialized countries. Of particular importance in this respect were the regional fish marketing information services established by FAO. Countries in the Asian/Pacific and Latin American regions acknowledged the value of the existing services. There was agreement that these services should be maintained and extended. Efforts should be made to establish similar services for Africa and the Arab countries as soon as possible. The regional marketing information services were considered a suitable means to foster regional collaboration in fish trade matters; global coordination between the regional systems would be provided by FAO. The proposed system of international fish market indicators was regarded as extremely useful for enhancing an orderly flow of fish products in international markets.

116. Taking into account the particular nature of fish and fishery products, FAO activities related to trade promotion should be coordinated with interested regional and international organizations such as United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), International Trade Centre (ITC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Action Committee on Marine and Freshwater Products of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (SPFFA), and the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI).

117. The present level of intra-regional trade in fish was generally considered too low and there was agreement that serious efforts should be made to foster trade amongst and within the regions. For the promotion of intra-regional trade the information and advisory function of the regional services will be of particular importance.

118. Delegations brought to the fore a number of factors hampering exports in their respective countries. Compliance with quality requirements seemed to be a particularly prominent one. Other factors mentioned were financing of exports and temporary adverse market conditions. The need to diversify exports both with regard to products and markets was generally recognized, as well as the need for access to markets, giving them a greater transparency. Some delegations pointed to the link between access to resources and access to market. Many delegations recognized the need for endeavouring to eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers which hamper international trade in fish products and the exports of developing countries. Some delegations emphasized the need for other trade barriers to be eliminated when they are applied as sanctions for the exercise of their sovereign rights over the resources of their EEZ, as recognized by international law. Some delegations felt that FAO should not duplicate the work on tariff barriers already the object of consideration by other bodies.

119. One delegation mentioned that, as a consequence of recent changes in the Law of the Sea, competitive conditions between developed states were already affected. Unilateral market concession could have further implications in this respect among those countries.

120. It was recognized that the main problem in the promotion of international trade in fishery products lay in the existence of an importing market extremely concentrated as regards both number of countries and value of imports.

121. There was a consensus that a multilateral framework for consultations on fish trade matters based on regional arrangements would be very valuable. Several delegations indicated that the establishment of an intergovernmental group on fishery products at global level would require further study. The Secretariat was requested to have this matter analysed by an ad hoc group of specialists. The study could include consideration of such an intergovernmental group acting as an international commodity body within the framework of the UNCTAD Common Fund of Commodities while avoiding any duplication with intergovernmental bodies. It was understood that it might still take some time for the Fund to become operational. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare for the World Fisheries Conference a document on the possible terms of reference and financial and other implications of an inter-governmental group.

122. The observers from GATT and OECD gave an account of the work presently being undertaken by their organizations in the area of international fish trade.

123. Some delegations considered that it was advisable to use regional preferences among developing countries at intra- and inter-regional level to promote trade in fishery products. In accordance with some current regional experiences, mention was made of the agreements by fishery products or groups of products through actions of global or partial scope used within the framework of ALADI.

(h) International Collaboration in Research, Management and Development Including the Role of FAO

124. The Committee examined, on the basis of document COFI/83/10, the present and future needs for cooperation between countries in fisheries research, management and development. It reviewed recent experiences with existing mechanisms for such cooperation and considered the action required by governments, FAO and other international organizations to promote further international cooperation in fisheries.

125. In this respect, the Committee noted that one of the major objectives of the FAO World Fisheries Conference was to promote international cooperation in fisheries between developing and developed countries and among developing countries themselves, so as to improve the self-reliance of developing countries in managing and developing their fisheries.

126. The Committee recognized that, as a result of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, decisions regarding the exploitation, management and use of the fish resources in exclusive economic zones are the consequence of the sovereign rights of the respective coastal States. The Committee agreed that the introduction of the new regime, together with the growing complexity of fishery problems and questions such as the management of shared stocks, highly migratory species, which should be solved in accordance with articles 63, 64 and other relevant provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, has increased the importance of international cooperation in fisheries matters.

127. The Committee observed that, although research into the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of fisheries is necessary for sustained fisheries development and rational management, such activities are often extremely costly and a heavy burden on individual countries. Costs can, however, be spread and duplication avoided through international cooperation in fisheries research of all kinds. The Committee emphasized that such research should be practical and in support of management and development objectives; the fullest possible use of existing facilities should be made, especially on a regional and sub-regional basis. Research efforts and technical cooperation programmes should have clearly identified objectives, be given carefully evaluated priorities and be fully integrated with overall national fisheries management and development aims.

128. The Committee drew particular attention to the importance of the sharing of information and data, and to the benefits from the establishment of common services for the collection, analysis, retrieval and dissemination of such information. In this connexion, it noted the proven value of such world-wide services as the Aquatic Sciences Fisheries Information Systems (ASFIS), compiled jointly by FAO and other international and national agencies, and to regional arrangements with respect to trade information, such as INFOFISH and INFOPESCA.

129. The Committee expressed its appreciation of the efforts already made by FAO to promote international collaboration, in particular the network of regional fishery bodies established within the framework of FAO. Such regional fishery bodies and their sub-regional committees, supported by associated field programmes, provided a unique mechanism for inter-country cooperation and for the delivery of technical assistance. Great importance was attached to the maintenance of this role by FAO which was now an integral part of the Organization's work of assisting developing countries to benefit more fully from their fishery resources. Through its network of regional bodies, FAO was in a good position to assist in the transfer of knowledge and information from one region to another.

130. The Committee called upon UNDP and other development aid agencies to give the highest priority to support for such mechanisms for technical cooperation and requested FAO to continue its efforts to mobilize from all possible sources the financial and other forms of external support required to maintain the Organization's activities in this respect. At the same time, it was recognized that developing countries themselves as appropriate should in the long term also contribute even more to the cause of international cooperation by increasing their own participation in and commitment to technical support to such regional bodies.

131. Adequate administrative servicing and technical backstopping are essential for the effective running of regional bodies. The Committee welcomed the efforts being made by FAO, within existing financial constraints, to provide such support.

132. The Committee noted the steps taken by FAO to establish a Regional Project for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Mediterranean to complement and strengthen the activities of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM), enlarging its statutory responsibilities. It further noted with satisfaction the interest expressed by the EEC to support this project.

133. The Committee also expressed its appreciation for the assistance provided to many developing coastal states in the better assessment of their fish stocks through the work of the research vessel DR. FRIDTJOF NANSEN, operated under a joint Norway/FAO/UNDP programme and expressed the strong hope that the UNDP would find it possible to continue financial support to this valuable activity. The Committee also noted with favour the study being undertaken by FAO and UNDP of a proposal for the cooperative use of other vessels for fishery research, development and training.

134. A number of delegations, noting the special problems of landlocked states and others without access to substantial marine resources, called for further steps to encourage cooperation in research and other aspects of inland water fisheries and aquaculture. In this respect, the Committee welcomed the progress already made to this end by the FAO/UNDP Aquaculture Development and Coordination Programme (ADCP) and by such organizations as the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) and the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM).

135. The Committee reaffirmed the importance of regional cooperation and in this respect the Committee also noted the valuable contributions being made to promote international or regional collaboration by a number of other inter-governmental bodies concerned with fisheries, and both within and outside the UN system. Particular reference was made to the SELA Action Committee on Marine and Freshwater Products, Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (PCSP) and Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). The Committee re-affirmed the importance it had already attached in this respect to the Declaration and proposals for collaboration made at the recent meeting in Panama of the Council of Fishery Ministers of SELA member countries. It also called upon FAO to continue and strengthen its already well-established cooperation with all international agencies concerned with fisheries in matters of mutual interest for the benefit of their member nations.

136. The Committee noted the growing interest being taken by regional economic groupings in fishery matters, such as the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and EEC, and requested FAO to strengthen the links between these bodies and FAO regional bodies and projects.

137. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) re-affirmed the intention of his organization to continue, within the constraints of its resources, its traditional involvement in collaborating in the fisheries management and development. He suggested that the present reduction in funds available for fisheries development projects due to major shortfalls in contributions by donors to planned resources of the UNDP is also to some extent linked with the readiness of coastal states to give high priority to fisheries projects.

138. The representative of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for the Law of the Sea reviewed the responsibilities of the Secretary General provided for in the Convention on the Law of the Sea with respect to the implementation and assured FAO of maximum support for the final preparation of the World Fisheries Conference.

139. The representative of the International Labour Organization noted the complementarity of the interests of his organization with those of FAO in fisheries, reviewed the tradition of collaboration between ILO, FAO and IMO in such aspects as training and standards and re-affirmed his organization's willingness to continue its cooperation with FAO in the preparations for the World Fisheries Conference and in the implementation of its recommendations.

140. The representative of the World Bank indicated that his institution has recently approved and published a fisheries sector policy paper as a guide to its staff and its borrowers. He noted that there was evidence that external aid could be used more effectively and that, in particular, there is a need for greater coordination of strategies and resources. The Bank stands ready to provide assistance to the third world nations wishing to develop their fisheries. It would also support any valuable initiative leading to a better Agency coordination. It would wish to make the fullest use of the FAO Fisheries Department competence for this purpose.

141. The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank viewed his organization's collaboration with a wide variety of other banks, donor agencies, UN agencies and nations and drew particular attention to the successes experienced with a system of simple, direct small loans to assist the development of fisheries.

142. The representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) noted his organization's flexible approach to its lending policies and assured the Committee of IFAD's willingness to continue its support, whenever feasible and in close cooperation with other agencies, for small-scale fisheries development.

143. The representative of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) described the well-established cooperation between his organization and FAO and made particular reference to the valuable role in this and other respects by the Advisory Committee of Experts on Marine Resources Research (ACMRR). He looked forward to a further strengthening of this cooperation, through both global and regional programmes of mutual interest, and in such matters as information and data systems and in the preparation of guidelines for the use of research vessels. He assured FAO of the continuing, close collaboration of IOC in the preparations for the World Fisheries Conference and in the follow-up to its recommendations.

144. The representative of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (PCSP) noted the Commission's close cooperation with FAO and other concerned organizations and suggested that the time was now appropriate for the establishment of a formal agreement between FAO and PCSP to strengthen further their valuable cooperation.

145. The representative of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) described his Center's activities, especially in training, aquaculture, and post-harvest technology and assured FAO of its continued collaboration to help promote fisheries management and development in Southeast Asia.

146. The representative of the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources (ICLARM) noted his organization's independence and flexibility and invited collaboration in its work in such matters as the aquaculture of low price species, assessment of tropical fish stocks and the socio-economic aspects of small-scale fisheries.

147. The representative of the International Association of Fish Meal Manufacturers described his Association's long tradition of collaboration with FAO and mentioned that IAFMM has set up a Committee with the intention of promoting low cost use of industrial pelagic fish species for human consumption.

THE WORK OF FAO IN FISHERIES

(a) Draft Programme of Work and Budget for 1984/85

148. The Committee reviewed document COFI/83/13. It was advised that, in the formulation of the strategies and priority programmes for fisheries for the biennium 1984/85, the Secretariat had taken into account fully the directives of the governing bodies of the Organization as well as the recommendations of the FAO Regional Conferences and sessions of regional fishery bodies.

149. The Committee was informed that the Programme and Finance Committees, at their most recent sessions, had expressed their unanimous support for the Director-General's proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1984/85. The strategies and activities in fisheries, proposed for implementation in the next biennium, including the level of budget, were fully endorsed.

150. The Committee was informed that the Director-General had endeavoured to implement measures of economy which included the reduction of administrative costs of the Organization while maintaining its capacity to implement programmes of activity in response to the needs of Member Countries.

151. Regarding the level of budget, the Committee noted that the overall net increase of the proposed budget of the Organization amounted to only 0.5 percent over that of the previous biennium. For Major Programme 2.2: Fisheries, the net increase for the forthcoming biennium

would be 1.97 percent over the present biennium, representing a considerable increase as compared with the budget of the Organization as a whole. The Committee noted further that, with cost increase added, the proposed budget for fisheries would be approximately 25 percent higher than the budget approved for the 1982/83 biennium.

152. The Committee pointed out that the additional provision for fisheries work might permit an early start to be made on the Action Programmes eventually recommended by the Policy Phase of the World Fisheries Conference, pending the mobilization of the larger scale funding required.

153. The Committee agreed that the long-term goals of the FAO programmes in fisheries should be to assist Member Countries in their individual and collective efforts to bring about the optimal utilization of their fishery resources and to achieve self reliance in the development and conservation of these renewable resources. The Committee fully supported the proposals for the fisheries programme and concurred that the strategies and priorities, as contained in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for fisheries in 1984/85, reflected the major needs for the development of world fisheries.

154. The Committee recognized four major factors which had clearly influenced the proposals: the new legal regime of the oceans with extended national jurisdiction over marine resources; the widening gap between supply and demand for fisheries products at affordable prices; the rising costs of fishing operations and the need to support small-scale artisanal fisheries through the improved management and development of capture marine and inland fisheries, and aquaculture.

155. The essential role of information and statistics in fisheries development and management and in the transfer and adaptation of appropriate technology to developing countries was stressed by the Committee. In this respect, it recognized FAO's leading role in the United Nations system in providing information on fisheries to the world community. It expressed its support for the continued and expanded activities of the Aquatic Science and Fisheries Information System (ASFIS).

156. As regards fishery data and statistics, the Committee recommended that every effort be made to improve the quality and reliability of data inputs which require the improvement of national fisheries statistical systems. It commended FAO's increased efforts to strengthen national capabilities in this field and noted with appreciation that technical backstopping would be provided in the use of computers for specific activities such as the time series analysis and the analyses of survey results.

157. While appreciating the scope and quality of FAO's documentation in fisheries such as technical reports, manuals, etc., the Committee recommended that FAO should use all means possible to keep Member Countries fully informed of the wide range of such documentation which it published and to ensure its timely issuance, thus facilitating the transfer of knowledge and technology to Member Countries. It was also recommended that FAO's "Fisheries Country Profiles" be regularly updated and published. It was noted that precise information about FAO publications as well as its activities and achievements was useful to national governments in their justification of FAO budgets.

158. The Committee suggested that some priority among the fisheries programmes be given to Programme 2.2.2: Fisheries Exploitation and Utilization.

159. Noting that several stocks of conventional fish species had been fully exploited and that some had been overfished, the Committee attached great importance to the conservation and management of fishery resources. It noted with appreciation that FAO had increased its emphasis on the assessment of multispecies coastal and inshore fish stocks which supported the livelihood of millions of small-scale fishermen. It supported the ongoing activities in the review of the state of the world fishery resources. In this connexion, the Committee recommended that FAO increase its efforts in the development of low-cost methodologies and technologies easily applied to the appraisal of the state of fish stocks by developing countries.

160. Recognizing the important role of inland fisheries and aquaculture in food production and food security, particularly for rural populations, the Committee fully supported FAO's effort in these areas and recommended that greater provision be made for these important sectors of fisheries. These would include technical assistance in the formulation of national strategies for aquaculture development, the management of inland waters, mangrove forests and coastal lagoons and the evaluation of the effects of pollution on the fishery resources.

161. The Committee noted the widening gap between the supply and demand of fish as food, which deficit, it had been estimated might be more than 20 million metric tons by the turn of this century. It therefore gave full support to the proposals that FAO intensify its efforts to develop suitable means of utilizing less familiar and non-conventional species as food for direct human consumption. The ongoing activities related to fish technology development with a view to reducing the prevailing high wastage also received full support. The Committee suggested that more attention should be given to the role of fisheries in the context of World Food Security.

162. The Committee took note of the proposed activities in the area of international trade in fish and fishery products. Its views and recommendations in this respect are stated in the preceding section of this Report.

163. In endorsing the proposed activities of FAO in the field of small-scale fisheries development, the Committee re-emphasized the essential role of fisheries training and extension services. It noted with satisfaction that a new post of Fishery Training Officer to be engaged in the planning and implementation of training activities in small-scale fisheries, particularly in the area of extension services, had been included in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for fisheries for the next biennium.

164. The Committee recognized the importance of the range of activities carried out under Programme 2.2.3: Fisheries Policy. It noted that there would be a continuing need for FAO to provide assistance to those countries that so requested through participation in EEZ fishery policy and planning missions, the economic analysis of fishery development options, studies of development and management systems for small-scale fisheries, training, etc., which already featured in the Programme's present activities.

165. The Committee observed that during the present biennium the Fisheries Department had several vacant posts. Notwithstanding the prevailing financial constraints of the Organization, the Committee recommended that these posts be filled as soon as practicable in order to ensure the smooth and efficient implementation of the various activities as envisaged.

166. The role of regional offices in supporting Headquarters' activities was mentioned. The Committee was of the opinion that, in addition these offices could also render services to the regional fishery bodies and projects in their respective regions. Some delegations suggested the great importance of striving at economy and efficiency within the regional offices.

167. The Committee recognized the valuable role of the FAO regional fishery bodies in assisting Member Countries, upon request, to develop and manage their fisheries, particularly since these countries are now faced with additional opportunities and obligations under the new regime of extended maritime jurisdiction. It requested FAO to provide adequate administrative servicing and technical backstopping in order to strengthen the activities of these bodies. Bearing in mind that effective implementation of their activities would depend upon additional support from extra-budgetary resources, the Committee appealed to donor countries and funding agencies to also consider rendering adequate financial support to these bodies. Member Countries were also requested to endeavour to mobilize additional funds from prospective donors and financial institutions for the same purpose.

168. The Committee was satisfied with the close integration between the Regular and Field Programmes in fisheries. It emphasized the essential role of the Field Programme with technical backstopping from the Regular Programme in assisting developing countries to improve their capabilities in fisheries development and management. In this connexion the Committee noted that it was not FAO's role to monitor progress in the management and development of fisheries in Member Countries, but rather to assist and support efforts in this direction and to keep itself informed as to results in this direction. Noting with concern the declining trend in the delivery of field projects in fisheries, the Committee urged FAO, the recipient countries and donor countries/agencies to mutually seek suitable solutions to rectify this constraint. The Committee also recommended that FAO should take all necessary measures to make greater use of experts from the developing countries in the implementation of its regional and national fisheries projects.

(b) Report on the Programme of Assistance in the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zones

169. The Committee considered this item on the basis of document COFI/83/14 which was supplemented by an introduction from the Secretariat.

170. The Committee recalled that the Director-General's Special Action Programme for the development and management of fisheries in the exclusive economic zones was launched in 1979 in response to the Committee's request to help coastal nations meet the challenges of changes foreseen by the then continuing Law of the Sea Conference. Since the last session of the Committee, ten EEZ policy and planning missions have been undertaken in response to specific requests from developing coastal states. Under the auspices of the Programme, assistance was also given on request to twenty-six countries on legal aspects of fisheries management and development. This assistance concentrated on the revision of fisheries legislation in the light of recent extensions of jurisdiction.

171. The Programme has continued to give special attention to monitoring, control and surveillance. Assistance in this field was given in collaboration with regional fisheries development programmes such as the South China Sea, the Eastern Central Atlantic and the South West Indian Ocean Programmes.

172. Global activities such as those carried out by the R/V DR FRIDTJOF NANSEN and the Tuna Resources Development and Management Project continued to form an essential part of the Programme providing an information base essential to the rational development and management of world fisheries in and outside exclusive economic zones.

173. The Secretariat also informed the Committee on the long-term studies that had been prepared during the period under review on fisheries strategies, principles of management, management of nearshore tropical fisheries, conditions of access, straddling stocks in waters of the continental shelf in certain areas of the South-West Atlantic and the regulation of fishing effort. These studies which have been the subjects of special consultations were part of the FAO's activities in preparation for the Technical Phase of the World Fisheries Conference.

174. The countries which have received assistance from the EEZ Programme either through policy and planning missions, advice on legal aspects of fisheries management or monitoring, control and surveillance of fisheries activities acknowledged the significant contribution of the Programme to the management and development of their fisheries. They noted with appreciation the prompt response given by FAO to their request for assistance. Several countries underlined the continuing need for policy and planning missions in view of the changing conditions in many EEZs.

175. The importance of the work being carried out under the monitoring, control and surveillance component of the Programme was emphasized. Assistance should continue to be provided on request both to individual countries and in the context of supporting regional cooperation. The subject was of particular importance for groupings of small developing island states faced with the problems of establishing cost-effective controls over large areas of waters within their EEZ.

176. The Committee was appreciative of the long-term studies undertaken under the auspices of the Programme. These studies have been very important in stimulating and guiding the discussions of the Committee. Early publication of all these studies was requested.

177. The Committee strongly supported the continuation of the Programme. A suggestion was made that the scope of the Programme be widened to include the search for solutions to problems of fishery management in large inland water bodies bordering between two or more countries. These problems include shared stocks, cooperative research and protection of the environment. Following this suggestion it was emphasized that problems related to such inland waters are of a similar and as urgent nature as those of marine fisheries.

178. The Committee unanimously expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government of Norway for the generous support it had given to the Programme over the years.

(c) FAO/UNEP Draft Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals

179. This item was introduced by the Secretariat on the basis of document COFI/83/15 and COFI/83/15 Add.1. There was considerable support in principle for the general aims of the plan. However, it was stressed that this was a very complex issue, and that there had been a number of developments since the present draft of the plan was presented to the Fourteenth Session of COFI in 1981. It would therefore be necessary to undertake some updating and certain modifications of the plan as it was implemented, and in undertaking these modifications due account would be taken of the written and oral comments of Member Governments.

180. In view of the current financial situation, particular concern was expressed that there should be no duplication of efforts with existing governmental and non-governmental organizations. Also FAO was asked to establish priorities within this project and to consider the relative importance of this work within its overall fisheries programme. The Committee was assured that the only FAO resources used would be staff from the Regular Programme.

181. The responsibilities of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in the conservation and management of whales was underlined. Many delegations also stressed the sovereign rights and responsibilities of coastal states in respect of reserves within their EEZs. At the same time, it was emphasized that within its mandate for world food production, FAO had an important and unique role in connexion with the conservation, and rational utilization of marine mammals.

182. Conservation, management and rational utilization depends on good scientific advice, and the strong element of research in the plan was therefore welcomed. The Committee also stressed the importance of training local scientists in developing countries and noted with appreciation the establishment, within the National Aquatic Research Agency of Sri Lanka, of a marine mammal unit, which could serve a regional function in the Indian Ocean as well as the offer by the delegation from Uruguay to share their experience in seal management.

183. Several delegations noted that marine mammals were a valuable resource for human food in some countries, but that any harvesting should be based on good scientific advice available. At the same time, the importance of non-consumptive uses of marine mammals (e.g., benign research including behaviour studies, whale watching and tourism) should not be overlooked, and the deliberations of the 1983 Boston Conference on the non-consumptive uses were mentioned. Countries bordering the Indian Ocean stressed the value of the Indian Ocean sanctuary for the conservation of marine mammals, which was the world's largest natural resource reserve.

184. The importance of knowing more about the nature and extent of the interaction between marine mammals and fisheries was mentioned, and the initiative of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and FAO in this matter was welcomed. Appreciation was also expressed at the action that had been taken in the eastern Pacific to reduce the incidental kill of porpoises in the tuna purse-seine fishery. Should problems of incidental killing in the course of purse-seining operations occur in the Indian Ocean it could be possible to monitor them.

185. The Committee noted with appreciation the expression of interest by the observers from IUCN and IWC in collaborating in the implementation of the plan, and also of the PCSP with reference to the stocks of marine mammals in the Southeast Pacific.

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION OF BASIC ELEMENTS FOR A STRATEGY FOR FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AND FOR ASSOCIATED ACTION PROGRAMMES

186. The Committee was informed that, in the course of discussions regarding the objectives and desirable outcomes of the World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development at the FAO Regional Conferences of 1982, at recent FAO Council sessions and in consultations held with individual member countries, there was consensus that the major results of the Conference should include the formulation of a Strategy for fisheries management and development at the national, sub-regional, regional and global levels. During these discussions, approval was also expressed for a proposal that the World Fisheries Conference should seek agreement upon specific programmes for action, to support the Strategy, in such areas as technical assistance, training, investment, trade. Subsequently, the Norwegian authorities proposed that there should also be an action programme to promote the role of fisheries in alleviating under-nutrition.

Strategy for fisheries management and development

187. As background to its discussion of the proposed Strategy for fisheries management and development, the Committee reviewed document COFI/83/11 which presented a tentative framework for the Strategy and contained suggestions for its further elaboration, prior to the submission of more detailed proposals to the policy phase of the World Fisheries Conference in 1984.

188. The Committee noted that in the course of its deliberations on agenda item 4, the need had been emphasized for governments to review their individual and collaborative strategies and policies concerning fisheries planning management and development. In this period of change, the challenge was to promote the self reliance of developing countries in the rational planning and management and the optimum utilization of their fish resources. The fisheries regime, moreover, widened the opportunities for fish to play a greater role in world food supplies, thereby helping to alleviate under-nutrition and strengthen world food security. In this respect, the Committee emphasized that the reorientation of strategies and policies for fisheries planning management and development should take due account of the present and potential contributions from marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture.

189. The Committee therefore welcomed the proposal that the World Fisheries Conference should elaborate a Strategy for fisheries planning management and development, comprising guidelines and principles for the reference of governments and international organizations as they consider the individual and joint actions needed to achieve the objectives of greater self-sufficiency and self-reliance. It believed such a Strategy would represent a valuable contribution to the steps being taken to achieve a New International Economic Order.

190. The Committee re-emphasized that, in discussing such a Strategy, issues already settled at the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea should not be re-opened. Equally, the guidelines and principles to be incorporated in the Strategy should take full account of national sovereignty and provide the flexibility required to reflect the unique circumstances of individual countries.

191. The Committee noted the suggestion made by the FAO Council at its 83rd session in June 1983 for a basic framework for the Strategy when it endorsed proposals for a draft provisional agenda for the 1984 policy phase of the World Fisheries Conference. The Committee welcomed the recommendation that, in addition to a Plenary session, two separate, concurrently active Commissions, should be established. One would deal exclusively with the elaboration of the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development, the other with the Action Programme proposals.

192. In reviewing the provisional agenda of the Commission to be established to examine the detailed proposals for the Strategy, the Committee supported the inclusion of the following elements:

- The contribution of fisheries to national economic, social and nutritional goals.
- Principles and practices for the rational management and optimum use of fish resources.
- The special role and needs of small-scale fisheries and rural fishing and farming communities.
- Improved national self-reliance in fisheries management and development.
- Economic and technical cooperation in fisheries development.
- Financial support for investment in fisheries management and development.
- International trade in fish and fishery products.
- International cooperation in fisheries research, training, management and development, including the role of FAO.

193. The Committee welcomed the assurance by the Secretariat that, when preparing documentation concerning the guidelines and principles to be incorporated in the fuller elaboration of the Strategy, the views and recommendations of the Committee during its discussions of agenda item 4 (Key issues for fisheries management and development) would be fully taken into account.

194. The Committee recommended the final draft should be as concise and as short as the need to be comprehensive permitted. To this end, consideration might be given to the preparation of a brief introduction, perhaps in the form of a Declaration or Resolution, summarizing the essential nature and contents of the Strategy.

Action Programmes

195. With regard to specific programmes of action to be associated with the Strategy, the Committee had before it document COFI/83/12 (basic elements for action programmes) and documents COFI/83/12, Add.1 and Add.2.

196. The delegation of Norway, in introducing its proposal, contained in document COFI/83/12 Add.1 (Proposal for an action programme to promote the role of fisheries in alleviation of undernutrition), noted that it was the major recommendation of an international expert consultation organized in July 1983 by the Government of Norway in collaboration with FAO. It stressed that the expert consultation was an inter-disciplinary effort, including experts in public health, socio-economics and nutrition as well as fisheries. The approach suggested in their proposal called for similar inter-disciplinary action to integrate nutritional considerations in the planning and implementation of fisheries management and development for the benefit of the poorest and weakest section of the community.

197. The second addendum outlined a proposal by Canada, contained in document COFI/83/12 Add.2 (Proposal for an action programme for management and development of fisheries in exclusive economic zones), for the revision of the suggestions made in COFI/83/12 by providing for an action programme to deal specifically with the management of fisheries.

198. A number of delegations proposed that the development of small-scale fisheries deserved a separate Action Programme.

199. Taking the various suggestions into account, the Committee agreed that the proposal for the following five Action Programmes should be submitted to the policy phase of the World Fisheries Conference:

- (i) Action programme on fisheries management and development (covering both marine and inland fisheries);;
- (ii) Action Programme for the development of small-scale fisheries;
- (iii) Action programme on aquaculture;
- (iv) Action programme on trade in fish and fish products;
- (v) Action programme to promote the role of fisheries in alleviating undernutrition.

200. It was suggested that fisheries training, being an essential component of all aspects of fisheries management and development, would be incorporated in each of the above Action Programmes. Similarly, technical cooperation, transfer of technology and investment were related to the whole range of fisheries activities and should also be incorporated in each of the Action Programmes proposed.

201. The Committee made a number of general and specific observations on the fuller elaboration of the Action Programmes, which should be designed primarily to assist countries in achieving their specific national objectives for fisheries and in attaining greater self-reliance in fisheries management and development. The need to make use of experts from the region to provide advice on sensitive issues such as planning and management of fisheries resources was also pointed out.

202. It was suggested that the Action Programme to promote the role of fisheries in alleviating under-nutrition might include work to prepare a manual to assist in the integration of nutritional considerations into fisheries projects.

203. With regard to the Action Programme on trade in fish and fish products, the Committee suggested that the improvement of product quality and trading conditions should be included so as to contribute to the elimination of barriers, which hamper the development of this trade. The Committee also emphasized the need for close collaboration by FAO with other agencies and organizations concerned with trade matters, such as ITC, UNCTAD and GATT, and that care should be taken to avoid duplication of efforts. It also requested that further study be made of the possibility of establishing an inter-governmental group on fishery commodities; some delegations mentioned that the establishment of such a body, because of statutory requirements, might take a long time.

204. The Committee noted that, whilst FAO is prepared to play the fullest possible role in the design and implementation of the Action Programmes, active participation and concrete support from

governments, international and regional organizations and, above all, donor agencies and financial institutions, will be necessary if intentions were to be converted into practical reality.

205. In this regard, it noted that the estimates provided in document COFI/83/12 regarding the possible financial implications of the proposals were tentative approximations which would require refinement in the light of the fuller elaboration of the five proposed Action Programmes. The Committee was informed that the additional financial resources required would have to be found from extra-budgetary sources. The Committee therefore invited FAO to have further discussions with donor agencies and financial institutions to mobilize such support.

206. The Committee welcomed the recommendation made by the FAO Council in June 1983 that further consultations with governments, and with concerned international organizations, regarding the Strategy and the Action Programmes should be undertaken so that detailed proposals could be prepared for submission to the policy phase of the World Fisheries Conference in 1984.

207. The Committee agreed that fuller, revised drafts for the Strategy and the five Action Programmes would be prepared by the Secretariat, in the light of the Committee's views and recommendations, and would be circulated to all governments, agencies and concerned organizations preferably before the end of December 1983. Written comments would be requested before the end of February 1984. FAO would then convene in March 1984 an ad hoc consultation of government experts to review the drafts and the comments received. For practical purposes, the number of such participating experts would have to be limited but, in order to ensure proper regional representation, invitations would be extended by the Director-General after seeking the advice of the Chairmen of the regional groupings. Following the consultation, the Director General would finalize the draft proposals for the Strategy and Action Programmes for circulation to all governments, agencies and organizations which would be invited to participate in the policy phase of the World Fisheries Conference to be held from 27 June to 6 July 1984.

208. Some delegations already indicated that they would be prepared to contribute to the implementation of the Action Programmes particularly in the fields of technical assistance and training.

209. The IUCN representative strongly supported the proposed action programme for management and development.

210. The representative of the World Bank indicated that the Bank would be willing to participate in consultations with other financing institutions to look into the problem of investment financing in the fisheries sector in coordination with FAO.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

211. No other matters of business were raised.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION

212. It was agreed that the Committee should meet in Rome in the spring of 1985. The exact date would be determined by the Director-General in consultation with the Chairman.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

213. This report was adopted on 19 October 1983.

Appendix A

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Session
2. Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the Session
3. Election of Officers
4. Key issues for fisheries management and development
 - (a) Objectives, policies and strategies
 - (b) Principles and techniques of fisheries management
 - (c) Conditions and control of access to fishery resources in exclusive economic zones
 - (d) Special problems of small-scale fisheries
 - (e) Problems of small developing island states
 - (f) Inland fisheries and aquaculture
 - (g) International trade in fish and fishery products
 - (h) International collaboration in research, management and development, including the role of FAO
5. Preliminary consideration of basic elements for a Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development and for specific Action Programmes (for submission to the policy phase of the FAO World Fisheries Conference)
6. The work of FAO in fisheries
 - (a) Draft Programme of Work and Budget for 1984/85
 - (b) Report on the programme of assistance in the development and management of fisheries in the exclusive economic zones
 - (c) FAO/UNEP Draft Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Management and Utilization of Marine Mammals
7. Any other matters
8. Date and place of the Sixteenth Session of the Committee
9. Adoption of the Report

Appendix B

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Appendix D

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

**Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,
Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

We are meeting at a time of great change in fisheries management and development. A decade ago, most commercially exploited fish stocks were common property. Today, practically all of the marine stocks, which together account for about 90 percent of the world catch, fall under the jurisdiction of coastal states.

Many of the basic premises on which fisheries policies and projections were based are now obsolete. We need to rethink, to replan and to restructure the use and management of all fishery resources - looking at aquaculture as well as inland and marine fisheries in the process.

The World Fisheries Conference is the first major international step to examine what the new regime that has emerged from the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea means for fisheries. This technical meeting is vital to the successful completion of the final, policy-making session next year.

FAO assists a new order in world fisheries

When I addressed COFI in 1979, I stressed that world fisheries, and FAO's involvement in their development, stood at the threshold of a new era. I informed you of a new Special Action Programme, now generally referred to as the EEZ Programme, to help coastal nations meet the challenges of changes presaged by the then continuing Law of the Sea Conference.

I can fairly claim that FAO has taken the lead in helping nations, particularly developing coastal states, bring about a new international order in the sphere of fisheries. We recognized the need for reform. Now, through the World Fisheries Conference and in partnership with our Member Governments, we must help formulate a strategy and associated plans of action for the fisheries of the future.

You are gathered here to translate the consensus of the conference hall into the practical realities of food, employment and income. But before going into more detail about what is expected of this and the final phase of the World Fisheries Conference, I would like to share our perspective of fisheries and what they mean in terms of present and future development.

Fish is a very nutritious food

First and foremost fish is food - a very nutritious one. Fish and fisheries products are part of the family of high-protein foods and their biological value compares favourably with those of other animal products such as meat and milk. Fish is also an exceptionally good source of several other essential nutrients such as vitamins and minerals. It constitutes thus an ideal supplement for improving the often poor and monotonous diet consumed in many tropical and sub-tropical countries and is especially valuable in combatting dietary deficiencies in the very young.

Fish accounts for nearly one quarter of the world's supply of animal protein, but it is in the developing regions that fish really comes into its own. To a great extent fish is the meat of the Third World. In a number of developing countries fish and fisheries products make up more than 50 percent of the total animal protein supplies and it is interesting to note the vital part fish plays in the diet of centrally-planned economies where it is often the largest single source of animal protein.

However, there is a disturbing trend in fish consumption. Increases in fish production have gone primarily to those countries that could afford to pay. As a result, the average per caput fish

consumption in developing market economies has increased only marginally since 1960 while individual consumption rose by several kilogrammes in developed countries during the same period.

This trend is alarming because it could lead to a decrease in fish supplies where they are much needed - in the developing regions.

A week today we will be celebrating here at FAO and in over 150 countries, the third annual World Food Day. We wish to re-emphasize that "Food Comes First" - the essential need and right of all. In helping satisfy this need, the fisheries of the world have just as important a role to play and as serious a challenge to face as the producers of cereals or any other basic foodstuffs.

Supplies and demand for fish

Clearly, fish is not an expendable item in the check-list of the world's food supplies - a point which raises serious questions of supply and demand.

At present, the world fish catch stands at approximately 75 million tons per year. About 55 million tons of that total is fish produced for human consumption. The remainder is used to provide feed for poultry and pigs.

Now for demand. According to our best estimates this will reach about 110 million tons by the year 2000. Population increases will account for most of the growth in demand. Therefore, it will be greatest in the developing world which could account for over 60 percent of total consumption by the turn of the century.

In other words, we will have almost to double the available supplies of food fish simply to maintain per caput consumption at present world levels. This target will be difficult to meet. World production of fish is growing by about one percent per year. If present trends are allowed to continue, annual production would not reach much more than 90 million tons by the year 2000.

Simple subtraction gives a predicted gap of 20 million tons between supply and demand. It does not express, however, what the impact might be on those individuals and communities that depend on fish to maintain even the most meagre of diets.

The growing gap between supplies and demand will inevitably bring higher prices. The challenge before us, therefore, is not just to find an extra 20 million tons of fish, but to bring this vital food to market at prices that the poor can afford and which still offer a reasonable return to those who harvest it.

Bridging the gap in supply ...

Success in this undertaking will require much more than an improvement in present fishery practices. Specifically, we will have to advance on two parallel fronts. Ways must be found of increasing the fisheries resource base. At the same time, we must make better use of fish once it has been harvested.

It is not for me to lecture such a prestigious gathering on how this twin challenge might be met, but I would like to touch upon some basic possibilities starting with the potential of fishery resources.

... by better management ...

Despite the decline in growth rate of the world catch from around seven percent in the fifties and sixties to about one percent now, the potential to increase the production from conventional fish stocks is by no means exhausted. We estimate that with proper management marine stocks could eventually yield close to 100 million tons annually.

If we add to this the potential of species presently under- or unexploited by the fishing industry, such as mesopelagics and Antarctic krill, the figure could be substantially higher. Preliminary assessments and exploratory fishing of mesopelagic fish off the northeast coast of Africa suggest that this resource alone could one day yield millions of tons annually.

Inland fisheries and aquaculture offer another route to increased production. Furthermore, they can often be developed in localities where there is a pressing need to add a rich protein savoury to an otherwise inadequate diet. In fact, both can increase not only food supplies but earnings and employment.

In our efforts to increase supplies we should be wary of relying exclusively on market forces. History shows that therein can lie the road to over-capitalization and a headlong chase in pursuit of greater harvests. This will lead to the collapse of fisheries and fish stocks just as surely under the present regime as that of the past.

... and reducing wastage

To make more effective use of existing catches, no better start can be recommended than to declare an all-out war on waste.

Some 10 percent of the world fish catch is lost through spoilage. In some developing countries, losses run as high as 40 percent. Fish discarded over the side by fishing boats harvesting more valuable species such as shrimp is another tragic source of waste.

By reducing both forms of waste we could make great gains without catching one extra fish. They would be relatively cheap gains made, for the most part, in regions where the need to increase food supplies is most urgent.

No great technical "break-through" is required. No social revolution is indicated. The reduction could be achieved essentially through training, extension and technology transfer - giving the people who catch, process, transport and sell these products the means and the motivation to do a better job.

From a war on waste, it is an easy step to making better final use of the fish once landed. Apart from wasteful processing techniques, one outstanding challenge exists: to find ways of diverting to the human consumer a major part of the 20 million tons of fish that each year is converted into animal feed. It would increase food supplies. It would improve the earnings of the fishermen.

Vital role of the small-scale fisheries

In the search for greater food production, we must not neglect the social dimensions of fisheries. Small-scale or artisanal fisheries are, and seem likely to remain, a vital part of the scene. They account for about 25 percent of the world catch and they provide about 40 percent of the total supply of food fish.

The figures are even more telling if one looks at the developing regions. Small-scale fisheries, although probably supplying less than a quarter of the catch in Latin America, account for two thirds of the fish landed in Asia and about five sixths of the total in Africa. In the least developed countries of Asia and Africa, they provide over three quarters of domestic fish supplies.

Despite their vital role, small-scale fishermen generally occupy the lowest stratum in society. Located in isolated areas, often lacking the most basic amenities, they form one of the poorest and most neglected of rural communities.

Assisting the small-scale fisheries

Close parallels obviously exist between the small-scale fisherman and the poor farmer and landless labourer. In fact, the guidelines prepared to follow up the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development apply equally to these poor fishing communities.

The drive to produce fish supplies beyond immediate needs must be generated by the prospect of a reasonable financial return. All too often planners have neglected the social and economic expectations of the people involved in small-scale fisheries.

The management challenge is to satisfy these expectations. For example, those engaged in these fisheries must enjoy adequate access to resources, financial as well as biological, and to markets. It may also be necessary to use subsidies and other devices so that the burden of feeding poor consumers is not laid on the shoulders of even poorer fishermen.

The role of women in these fisheries should be emphasized. In some parts of the developing world, women are responsible for almost all the local trade in food fish. They usually also play a key part in processing the catch. Any development plan should take into account their essential contribution.

Our introduction of community-centred fisheries development involving a regional team working in association with parallel national units offers one workable solution to small-scale fisheries development. One such project has now been established in West Africa. Plans for several others are underway.

With local participation, access to resources and a sympathetic government, considerable opportunities exist to encourage self-help and progress in small-scale fisheries at comparatively little financial cost. The results will be to increase fish production and, at the same time, help relieve the social and economic distress of millions of people.

Redefining fisheries management

More generally, we need to reassess what fisheries management and development involve.

In FAO, because membership of our regional fishery bodies is drawn mainly from Third World countries, we have always placed emphasis on promoting and assisting fisheries development. Several of these bodies have had or still have technical assistance programmes or projects associated with them.

This commitment to development, combined with the key role played by small-scale fisheries, have made the FAO fishery bodies sensitive to the social and economic dimensions of fishery management.

Against such a background, I believe we are well placed to appreciate the need for a new approach to fisheries management. This approach, I suggest, should put more emphasis on the social and economic importance of fisheries and should not be restricted simply to maintaining fish stocks and improving their physical yields.

Fisheries management should no longer consist largely of endorsing or rejecting the advice of fisheries scientists. We must bring into the main plot all the actors. In the past, there have been too many sub-plots, and too many potentially vital dramatis personae have been left to heckle from the audience.

Fisheries management and development must be brought on to the central stage of government planning, policy-making and allocation of resources.

This is true for the poor coastal state or the small island nation that now finds itself richly endowed with fishery resources. It is equally true for the landlocked country where fisheries and aquaculture, although not prominent in the national economy, provide essential food and employment in poor and depressed rural areas.

International collaboration in fisheries

On a broader scale, we need to reassess the needs and the opportunities for collaboration between nations in fishery matters. Extended jurisdiction over fisheries gives rights and responsibilities to coastal states, creating, at the same time, new requirements for management and collaboration.

Greater collaboration may also be called for in the inland fisheries setting where river systems involve many riparian states. We are also becoming much more aware of the environmental impact that actions by nations upstream may have on those below extending even as far as major ocean fisheries.

If fish stocks are to be managed efficiently, they must be managed as a whole and not in parts. And in the case of stocks which cross one or more frontiers this means cooperative bilateral and regional management.

A wide range of support activities can benefit from collaboration - research, stock assessment and similar tasks. Collaboration is also in order because, whether stocks are shared or not, some aspects of fisheries management and development are too burdensome to be borne by countries acting alone.

Regional and national cooperation through FAO

Through its fishery bodies and associated programmes, FAO has played an important part in fostering cooperation between nations in fisheries management. There is not time, nor is this the place, to give an exhaustive list. I will give just a few examples to emphasize the spread of our involvement.

Coastal nations bordering the Indian Ocean, South China Sea and East Atlantic have joined in a very ambitious study of fishery resources. For almost a decade, the Norwegian research ship, DR. FRIDTJOF NANSEN, has been engaged in surveys of the pelagic fish stocks off their shores, providing first estimates for planning national fisheries development.

At the other end of the fisheries spectrum, FAO has a number of cooperative projects to improve or develop new fish products. In Asia, for example, 14 countries including three from the developed world, have joined forces in the search for ways of using for human consumption the small pelagic fish that are now converted mainly into fish meal.

FAO's work in aquaculture provides many examples of cooperation between countries. An inter-regional network of aquaculture centres is being established with, at present, four centres in Asia, one in Africa and one in Latin America. A Caribbean centre is at the planning stage.

Because quite a number of developing countries, especially those of Southeast Asia, have considerable expertise in aquaculture, it is a fertile area for technical cooperation among developing countries - TCDC. In fact, 28 of the 57 aquaculture experts presently employed by FAO are from ten Third World countries.

Cooperation in trade

Far-reaching prospects for cooperation lie in the area of trade in fish and fish products. The ultimate object must be to redress imbalances between north and south in world trade.

At present, Third World countries account for about 40 percent of fish exports and 15 percent of imports. Nearly half the countries with annual exports valued above U.S.\$ 100 million come from the Third World.

Developing countries operate under serious constraints in their efforts to improve their position in world trade. A lack of technical information, for example, translates often into quality defects. These, in turn, result in the rejection of products worth millions of dollars by importers every year.

Great gains can be made, at relatively little cost, simply by setting up lines of communications, putting exporters in touch with importers both in their respective regions and throughout the world.

We have two markedly successful examples from the developing regions of this kind of cooperation: INFOFISH in the Asian/Pacific area and INFOPESCA in Latin America. Between them, these fish marketing services have stimulated considerable new trade in their areas. We plan to expand our coverage to include West African nations and Arab countries.

Aside from market information, many other opportunities for collaboration can be found. Product standardization, quality control and inspection, transport arrangements, negotiation of insurance rates - these are all areas in which developing countries can achieve more together than alone.

Cooperation in training

Training provides fertile ground for cooperation. It is the seed of development. Without training, without access to facilities and skilled instructors, without extension support for "on the job" experience, any sustained effort to raise fisheries productivity is, in my view, destined to fail.

Of course, I could have introduced the topic of training at practically any point in my address. As many of you will know, FAO offers a wide range of training opportunities. It is an integral part of practically all of our field projects. We also provide training through formal courses, as well as by work experience, here at Headquarters.

I have chosen to highlight training at this point, however, because FAO has been at the forefront of making fisheries training at national and regional levels truly work. For many years, the Fisheries Department has provided efficient, cost-effective training by drawing upon the widest possible catchment area for both trainees and instructors.

An important feature and one that I believe is directly relevant here is our encouragement of self-reliance and cooperation in training among developing countries. We have modified that old Chinese adage "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day, but teach a man to fish and he will eat every day". Even more can be gained, in our view, by first teaching a man to fish, and then helping him to pass that experience on to others.

FAO's cooperation with other agencies and institutions

Before leaving the subject of cooperation, I must stress that FAO collaborates closely with the United Nations and our sister agencies.

In fact, most of the agencies took part in consultations and workshops held in preparation for the World Fisheries Conference. Let me mention Unesco and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Law of the Sea Secretariat of the United Nations, and the International Labour Organization.

I should mention that we have also benefited greatly from advice from many other sources, particularly FAO's own regional conferences and Member Governments.

FAO also enjoys a high degree of cooperation with the many intergovernmental fishery bodies set up outside the framework of FAO. This cooperation, which should be seen in the context of the work of FAO's own fishery bodies, varies according to regional needs and levels of fishery development.

Investment constraints

In concluding, we must ask ourselves: Can we muster the financial support to meet the technical assistance and investment needs for fisheries management and development?

In common with other UN agencies we have seen a dramatic decline in multilateral support. The impact can be seen in the reduced number of technical assistance projects. It is also reflected in the reduced levels of technical support given to our regional fishery bodies and in the lengthening lead time between planning and implementing projects.

Fortunately, the interests of bilateral funding sources have coincided remarkably with the priorities of our fisheries programme. If this had not been so, we would be facing considerable difficulties in meeting, at least partly, our responsibilities to Member Nations.

I am fully aware of the economic difficulties facing both developed and developing countries today. But I sincerely hope that increased resources will be made available to us both to help achieve the target of self-reliance for developing countries and to secure and sustain development of world fisheries.

Technical phase of the World Fisheries Conference

You are here to discuss in depth the technical aspect of fisheries management and development and to advise us on approaches to the formulation of a world fisheries Strategy and associated Action Programmes.

When elaborated fully, in consultation with Member Nations and donor agencies, the Strategy and Action Programmes will be submitted to the policy phase of the World Fisheries Conference in June next year.

We must, of course, approach world fisheries management and development with a sense of vision. After all, the Law of the Sea Conference created numerous precedents for the imaginative conduct of international negotiations. It is behooved upon us, therefore, to devise a Strategy and a Programme that are equal to the promises.

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